

CONGRATULATING GAIL LANGWORTHY ON HER RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Gail Langworthy, an incredibly kind and dedicated employee of mine who has served my constituents for 8 years back in the district.

Gail is moving on to an exciting new phase of her life, and she is leaving our office to enjoy her retirement.

When Gail isn't working hard for the people of Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District, she is an active volunteer for the Breedtown Cemetery Association in Venango County. She enjoys dancing, visiting her three grandchildren in Florida, and exploring local trails while riding bikes with her husband, Jeff.

Gail has also been described as an avid thrift shop and yard sale junkie. Gail will be missed by our entire team, but I am happy for her as she begins this new adventure.

Thank you, Gail, for your hard work, dedication, and service, and enjoy your retirement.

RECOGNIZING DAVE BAILEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Dave Bailey, who has worked for 31 years for the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer by supporting Member offices with all sorts of technology needs.

Dave has been a frequent visitor to our office to help me and my staff with our computers any time that we had an issue. He also played a critical role in ensuring our office was ready to telework as we transitioned our lives online at the start of this pandemic.

Simply put, we would not be able to do our jobs without people like Dave Bailey.

I am disappointed that I will not be able to share my well wishes with Dave in person, but I wanted to take this opportunity to thank him for his three decades of service and for all the help that he has provided me in my office.

Dave, be well, and enjoy your much-deserved retirement.

COVID VACCINE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week, we reached a truly incredible milestone in the fight against coronavirus.

On Monday, the first COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer was administered, and today, the FDA is meeting to approve the Moderna vaccine.

The timeline of vaccine development was made possible by Operation Warp Speed, and it is truly a modern medical miracle. In the 1930s, at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Jonas Salk began work on a polio vaccine. It wasn't until 1953, 23 years later, that the vaccine was successfully tested.

Operation Warp Speed has helped shrink the vaccine timeline and knock

down barriers in delays. To develop a safe, effective vaccine in under a year is a testament to the incredible scientific progress we have seen over the years and the refusal of scientists to surrender to this terrible virus.

The marshaling of the public sector and the private sector together by President Trump has really resulted in this vaccine that we have all been desperately waiting on. The vaccine is a critical step in saving lives, saving jobs, and saving our economy.

I thank President Trump for his leadership in Operation Warp Speed, and I thank all the incredible scientists, doctors, medical professionals, and the others who have helped make history.

COVID RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today, on the eve of a hopeful vote on the next COVID relief bill that our Problem Solvers Caucus has so ably led the charge on, I rise to tell the stories of three individuals from my district. Their stories represent just a fraction of the messages I have been receiving on COVID relief.

But today, on the floor of the people's House, I rise because they deserve to be heard. Their stories are the reason we refuse to go home for Christmas without an agreement. They are why we continue to fight until a deal is reached.

First, I would like to talk about Bob, who wrote to me from Brighton, Michigan. Bob is a pillar of his community. After serving his Nation in the Army National Guard for 6 years, he has been giving back to his fellow veterans for over 21 years as a district post commander for The American Legion.

But for the first time in 16 years, Bob recently found himself laid off from his job in construction due to the coronavirus. To cover his expenses, like 171,000 others in Michigan, he had to file a first-time claim for unemployment insurance. Despite being eligible for the State's maximum benefit, he cannot make ends meet.

Between medications and health insurance, mortgage and car payments, utilities and food, he is having to turn to his savings, and he knows that won't last long.

Bob is responsible, a straight shooter, and he has served our country. He is the kind of Michigander who anyone would want in their corner, but right now, he is asking for help, not sometime in the future, not after the inauguration of a new President.

He is asking us to pass a bill that helps the millions of Americans who are in need. It is our job, and it is our duty to rise to that call.

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I am also pushing for relief for Richard, who is from my hometown of Holly, Michigan. Richard chairs our

Downtown Development Authority Board, which supports the businesses on Main Street, many of which have been devastated by the pandemic.

Richard has had a front row seat to how critical the situation is, so he wrote me, asking what the Federal Government is going to do to save small businesses from bankruptcy.

I had the chance to talk to Richard over the phone this week, and we agreed that small businesses need loans and clarity on whether those loans will be forgiven or if they can deduct that loan in tax season. This is what we will hopefully be voting on in the next 48 hours in the update to the PPP program.

Richard and I do not see eye to eye on every issue, but when it comes to our local businesses, we are residents of Holly first. We agree that small businesses need a bridge to get them through the next year when the vaccine will be widely available. After all, it is business owners like Richard who have shown the grit and resilience needed to adapt to these challenging times. It is only right that we have their backs when they need it most.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, I am pushing for this bill because of Karli. She is a server at Mackle's in Hartland, Michigan—where, by the way, they have the best buffalo chicken wing tenders ever—and the best part of the job for her is creating memorable experiences for guests who come to share a meal. But these days, with the kitchen converted fully to takeout, she is working half as many shifts and taking home half the pay she used to.

COVID blindsided her and the rest of the service industry, and now she is worried about the bills that are piling up. In between shifts and stretching every paycheck, she is going to school to become a nurse, joining the absolute front line of America's latest war. Simply put, she can't imagine going into the new year with no extra help.

Mr. Speaker, she ends her letter with these words: "Please help take care of us so we can get back to taking care of you as our guests."

Take care of us so we can take care of you.

Mr. Speaker, think about that for a moment. In the middle of a global pandemic, one that has claimed 300,000 American lives and upended our way of life, that is the mantra of folks on the ground, folks who just want to take care of their neighbors and their communities. They are not asking for the government to solve every problem, but they expect their government to act.

For residents in my district, an agreement is more than just numbers on a page. It is a ray of hope that maybe they will spend Christmas a little less worried. It is a new year that they can truly look forward to. It is a sign that, when their backs are up against the wall and they need help, Congress can get in a room and agree on a deal.

Mr. Speaker, we are so close to that finish line, and so I ask all my colleagues to join me in heeding the pleas of Bob and Richard and Karli. Let's do the right thing. Let's pass a bill so we can help those who need it the most.

RECOGNIZING PAMELA DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my chief of staff, Pamela Day. Next month, after 25 years of service—17 of them in my office—Pam will begin her well-earned retirement.

Pam first arrived on Capitol Hill as a college student and served in my office with my friend, the late Representative Ben Gilman of New York. She first started in my office as a legislative assistant, and her policy knowledge and genuine desire to serve my constituents quickly became apparent.

Because of her hard work, determination, and positive attitude, Pam was promoted to legislative director, deputy chief of staff, and, eventually, she became my chief of staff. Her leadership in my office has been invaluable.

It is no secret, as dean of the House, I have been here for a long time. As a Member of this institution for nearly 20 years, Pam stuck with me through thick and thin, and I will always be grateful for her faithful service.

She is well respected by everyone, from alumni of my staff and her colleagues on Capitol Hill, to leaders in the State of Alaska and advocates far and wide. You simply do not achieve this level of respect unless you set the gold standard for what a congressional staffer should be. Pam has gone above and beyond at every turn.

Mr. Speaker, a chief of staff doesn't just assist the Member; they have an entire team of employees who, at any given time, are working on countless issues. My staff would agree, Pam is admired, respected, and will be deeply missed.

Pam's tenure has seen many of the victories I am proud of. She served in my office while I served as chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and passed our landmark highway bill, SAFETEA-LU. She also helped pass reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation Management Act. And her commitment to constituents has helped secure millions of dollars for organizations that serve Alaskans and Americans from all walks of life.

Aside from legislative victories, Pam understood the importance of the relationships in Congress. She made sure that my office was always in good spirits. And as many will attest, she ensured that our annual office Christmas parties were the best on the Hill.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of Pam, and I am saddened to see her go. She served me, our State, and our Nation with professionalism, commitment,

and a sincere love of country. She has always been committed to the next generation of congressional staff and has been a respected mentor to many of the staffers, both in my office and around Capitol Hill. Her leadership in my office was invaluable, and she will be missed by her colleagues as well as myself.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my great honor to call her my chief of staff and an even greater honor to call her my friend.

Pam, I wish you the best in your retirement. You have certainly earned it. God bless you, Pam, and thank you for your service.

FAREWELL REMARKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on what has been the greatest honor of my life: the opportunity to represent my home State and Oklahoma's Fifth Congressional District here in the people's House.

This is not an honor that I take lightly, nor is it a responsibility that I could have carried alone.

First and foremost, I begin by saying thank you.

Thank you to my family, to my parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, my friends, and all of those who have supported me throughout my life, who taught me the lessons about caring for our community, lessons about hard work and determination, about living the Golden Rule—the Oklahoma standard.

Thank you to all my teachers and guiding voices who showed me, through words and actions, the value of service, the importance of showing up for each other and standing up for what is right.

Thank you to Oklahomans who have shown up to make their voices heard. It is because of you we were able to accomplish everything we did. It is because of you that we were able to do what others said could not be done.

Mr. Speaker, I express my gratitude for my staff, who worked day and night to serve the Fifth District: my legislative team who made sure that, with every vote I took, I did what was right for Oklahoma; my caseworkers, who were nothing short of lifesavers. Their work to help veterans and seniors, to help workers and small businesses and struggling families during this pandemic literally saved lives.

Each and every one of my staff pushed themselves, not for my personal end, not to make a political point, but to serve a district and people that they care about, to help people who need it, and to make Oklahomans heard in Congress. After all, that is why we are here.

Members and staff alike, we are here to serve, and public service means putting the best interest of others before

ourselves. Service means listening to and working with others, even when we disagree.

Service is not about winning at all costs. It is not about us versus them. It is about all of us working together. Service means leaving the world and our country a better place than we found it.

I still believe that we can do that, that we must do that, that we must leave this country better than we found it. And, no, it is not easy. It takes work, but it is worth it.

Mr. Speaker, during the 116th Congress, I held 54 townhalls, a record for Oklahoma's Fifth District. I met with thousands of Oklahomans: individuals, businesses, and organizations. It was worth it because connecting with constituents and making sure their voices are heard is a critical part of this job.

One of the most frequent questions I had heard time and again—one that broke my heart—was when people would ask me if it was even worth it to work across the aisle to try to get things done, whether it was even possible to find compromise and common ground in today's bitter political climate. My answer was the same every time: Absolutely.

We can and we must. We have done it before. Compromise takes hard work because it is always easier to walk away from the table, to point fingers, than it is to find a path forward. But finding common ground is worth it every time because, when we talk about service and working on behalf of our districts, to me, the best service we can provide here in Congress is putting politics aside and getting the work done for the people we represent. It is with hard work and commitment to talking to each other that we can do that, and we have proven it over and over again here in the 116th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that, in this Congress, that is what I have done. I have had 25 bipartisan bills signed into law in the midst of a divided government, those that make a real difference for our country and the people of Oklahoma's Fifth District, legislation like my Military Tenant's Bill of Rights and the Military HOMES Act, which work to address substandard and unsafe housing on our military bases; bills like the PPP Flexibility Act, which extends financial support to small businesses during this pandemic; and legislation like the USMCA trade deal and the CARES Act, which all needed bipartisan support to pass.

These things made a difference. They were accomplished because we worked together. We were able to get them signed into law. We have accomplished real things over the past 2 years in service to our country, but only by working together.

And there is so much more left to be done. We have work to do to deliver quality, affordable healthcare to all Americans. We have to strengthen our public education system. We have to